

The volume referred to, a manuscript copy of which, was deposited by Mr. Gallatin in the office of the American Legation, in London, in 1827, shows that in the office of the board of trade and in the state-paper office, many documents and records of great value, in connection with the history of North-Carolina, are on file, and that permission for such agent as the State might designate for the purpose, was most courteously given, to take copies of all or any portion, that might be desired. I wish to obtain through you, a renewal of the courtesy and liberality.

Carolina was, as you are aware, originally a proprietary government. The first charter was dated 24th March, 1663; the second on the 30th of June, 1665. These charters granted to the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, Lord Berkley, Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir William Berkley and Sir John Colleton, all the lands between the southern boundary of Virginia  $36^{\circ} 30'$  on the north, and the ~~river Mathias in Florida~~  $29^{\circ}$  on the south, and from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific ocean on the west.

The proprietary government existed from 1663 to 1729, (a period of sixty-six years,) when all the proprietors relinquished the sovereignty, and all of them, with the exception of Lord Granville, surrendered the title to the soil to the crown. He retained the right of soil, and in 1744 his eighth part was conveyed to him in severalty, by metes and bounds. It embraced the area between the southern boundry of Virginia, and a line parallel with it, at the distance of 70 miles south, and extending from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west. This title Lord Granville retained until the American revolution, and in the early years of the present century attempted to maintain it before the Circuit Court of the United States, at Raleigh, on the ground that the change of government worked neither forfeiture nor escheat of his lands. The suit was ultimately removed, by writ of error, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it abated, by the death of the Earl during the late war with Great Britain.

From the beginning of the royal government, in 1729, until the opening scenes of the revolution, in 1774, these indexes